



*Renton
Municipal
Arts
Commission*

RENTON MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

Renton City Hall Conferencing Center (7th Floor)

January 7, 2014

Present: Ben Andrews, Bill Huls, Evelyn Reingold, Jaris English, Jerri Everett, Michele Berringer, Mitch Shepherd, Paul Hebron, Peter Hartley, T.Y.Lau

Absent: Marsha Rollinger (excused), Natalie Gress (unexcused)

Guests: Chris Koruga, Bill Jepson, Barbara McMichael

City Staff present: Ryan Zulauf, Renton Municipal Airport Manager; Doug Jacobson, Deputy Public Works Administrator, Transportation; Terry Higashiyama, Department of Community Services Administrator; Chip Vincent, Department of Community and Economic Development Administrator; Elizabeth Higgins, planner and staff liaison to the Arts Commission

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:35PM, by Paul Hebron, 2013 Vice Chair

GUEST PRESENTATIONS: A presentation was made by developer / artist / film-maker Chris Koruga of his current project, 1620 Benson Apartments. The project proposes several elements that would contribute to arts access in Renton. These include an outdoor amphitheater (with lighting, sound equipment, and seating for 100+/-); an indoor cinema, exterior wall murals, outdoor sculpture, and art class space. The project is under construction with an approximate one year build out timeline. The Commissioners asked several questions about the project and expressed their appreciation of Mr. Koruga's plans.

Ryan Zulauf, Renton Municipal Airport Manager, introduced the blast wall replacement project and the project architect, Bill Jepson, artist and pilot (and director of the Clayton Scott sculpture project at the Renton Municipal Airport). The proposed project is the "Lower Blast Fence Project," which will replace the existing blast wall at the south end of the airport, adjacent to Airport Way. The 20-foot high red and white checkerboard blast fence (intended to deflect strong air currents from aircraft) will be replaced by a new blast fence in the same location having a lower profile and incorporating kinetic art and elements relating to the significance of the Renton Airport in aviation history. The FAA is providing 90 percent of the project cost of approximately \$1 million.

Doug Jacobson, of the Renton Transportation Division of the Public Works Department, explained how the new blast fence would be incorporated into the pedestrian walkway improvements and landscaping to be located between the airport and North Airport Way. Commissioner Reingold asked if the sculpture at the corner of Rainier Ave and Airport Way was going to be made more accessible. The Commissioners discussed resiting the sculpture to a more prominent location. Ryan suggested the new Aerospace

Training Center, to be built at the site of the former Chamber of Commerce, might be an appropriate location for the sculpture.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November and December minutes approved

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: The correspondence and events folders were circulated for individual review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Resource Committee

No report

Communication Committee

There was a discussion, led by Commissioner English, about having the tasks of the Communication Committee undertaken by the entire Commission as a sort of “Committee of the Whole,” since communication is about raising awareness and that is the primary goal of the Arts and Culture Master Plan. There will be further discussion on this topic during the retreat recap at the next meeting.

The Communications Committee will meet on January 9th at noon at Luther’s Table.

GAP Lighting Project

No committee report, although RMAC liaison Elizabeth Higgins mentioned that the RMAC application for a NEA “Our Town” grant would be submitted at the end of the week and it contained a request for funding of the GAP (Galvanizing Art Project).

NEW BUSINESS:

It was moved and seconded that due to the length of the presentations the agenda should be revised to table discussion of the retreat and the calendar of RMAC events for 2014 until the next meeting.

Commission members nominated and unanimously elected Peter Harley to be Chair of the RMAC, Marsha Rollinger to be Vice-Chair, and Evelyn Reingold, Corresponding Secretary.

Discussion ensued regarding reappointments to the Commission of members whose terms expired at the end of 2013. These include Bill Huls, Marsha Rollinger, Natalie Gress, and Paul Hebron. Bill Huls and Marsha were reappointed. It is unknown if Natalie and Paul would like to be reappointed. Further discussion was tabled until the process of new appointments is further along. Commissioner Hebron suggested the RMAC use the River Days matrix to determine suitability of proposed commissioners.

Commissioners were reminded that the position held by former Commissioner Britt McKenzie must also be filled.

Barbara McMichael, of SoCo Culture, had several points to raise. She reminded the Commission that February 4th and 5th would be Arts and Culture Heritage Day in Olympia. This would be an opportunity to meet with our legislative representatives to bring issues of arts and culture to their attention. She encouraged the Commission to participate. She will be organizing meetings and arranging carpooling.

She also told the Commission that in May 2014, Seattle would be the venue for the American Alliance of Museums Annual Conference. She thought Liz Stewart, the History Museum, and RMAC may be able to play a role in this event.

Barbara also informed the Commission of an initiative by Arts Washington to get several people from every community to attend local school board meetings. The effort is centered on asking about funding for arts activities and programs in classrooms.

ADJOURNMENT:

January meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm. The next meeting will be held February 4, 2014 in the Renton City Hall Conferencing Center (7th Floor) at 4:30 pm.

Peter Hartley, Chair